

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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15 April 1987

The Honorable David L. Boren, Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The accompanying material contains answers to a number of questions posed on 18 March 1986, by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to [redacted], Chief of the Arms Control Intelligence Staff. These questions, eight on nuclear testing, are the only ones not yet answered from the original set. [redacted]

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This response has been delayed much too long. Nevertheless, I believe you will find that the questions are still very timely, considering the issues that currently confront the Congress and the Administration. [redacted]

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The answers provided, of course, represent our present best judgment. It is possible, and in fact likely, that the ability of US intelligence to monitor Soviet nuclear testing will change over time. We expect this capability to improve, and we are seeking to accomplish significant improvements within existing technical, fiscal, and operational constraints. [redacted]

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As I am sure you realize, there are honest differences of opinion among US scientists, inside and outside the government, as to the extent that technical improvements can be made. We in the intelligence business believe that all sources of data need to be pursued, and so we support extensions of our seismic capabilities and other national technical means as well as cooperative measures such as CORTEX. But all these new proposals are untested in the context of treaty monitoring. Consequently, the degree to which any or all of them will actually increase our monitoring confidence remains to be seen. [redacted]

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I hope this material helps you to better understand our current capabilities, and something of the benefits that the new proposals could bring. If you have additional questions, please let me know. [redacted]

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

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David Gries

Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure

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